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Congressman Jim Talent's Statement for the Record to the United States
Department of Energy Regarding the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for a
Geologic Repository for the Disposal of Spent Nuclear Fuel and High-Level
Radioactive Waste at Yucca Mountain, Nevada:

As the U.S. Congressman for the 2nd Congressional District in Missouri, which
1 encompasses large portions of St. Louis and St. Charles Counties, I want to express my
deepest concerns regarding the proposed action in the Department of Energy's (DOE)
Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for a Geologic Repository of high-level
radioactive waste at the Yucca Mountain Site in Nevada. The purpose of this DREIS is to
consider the possible environmental impacts that may result from the construction,
operation and monitoring, and eventual closure of the Geologic repository at Yucca
Mountain for spent nuclear fuel and high-level radioactive waste. The DEIS also
evaluates the possible impacts of transporting these large quantities of high-level
radioactive waste to the Yucca Mountain Site from 77 other sites across the United
States.

2... Let me state very clearly that I am opposed to any shipment of this spent nuclear
fuel and high-level radioactive waste by rail or truck through any part of the St. Louis
Area. This waste consists mostly of Uranium and is unusually intensely radioactive
2 cont. because it contains a high level of radioactive nuclear fission products. Because of its
high radioactive content, this waste should not be allowed to travel through any highly

2 cont. populated areas such as the Greater St. Louis Region. While the DEIS does not propose any specific routes of transport for this waste, it does indicate that this waste will be shipped by either legal-weight trucks or trains via the nation's highway and railway systems. Because of our region's convenient proximity to major rail lines and the interstate highway system, the St. Louis Area is a prime candidate to experience these shipments of waste.

3 In addition, the DOE informs me that it will take approximately 24 years to complete all the waste shipments from these commercial and DOE facilities to the repository at Yucca Mountain. Given that extensive period of time and the thousands of required shipments, it is highly unlikely that this transport will be completed without an accident. Our region simply cannot afford to have this waste travel through the area. The risks to the public health are much too great.